

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206119

FOLLOWING REPEAT BONN 14034 ACTION SECSTATE INFO USMISSION US
BERLIN BERLIN LONDON MOSCOW MUNICH PARIS 28 AUG 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, GW, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: OCTOBER ITU REGIONAL CONFERENCE: BERLIN
ASPECTS

REFS: (A) BONN 12879; (B) BONN 6311; (C) STATE 69941;
(D) BONN 13079

BEGIN SUMMARY: LONDON HAS NOW ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO
UK BONN GROUP DELEGATION REGARDING FRG REPRESENTATION OF
WEST BERLIN BROADCASTING INTERESTS AT OCTOBER REGIONAL
ITU CONFERENCE. BRITISH SOLUTION IS TO WORK OUT
BETWEEN THREE ALLIES AND FRG A DETAILED AND BINDING
BRIEF TO BE FOLLOWED BY FRG AT CONFERENCE. THIS STRIKES
US AS ACCEPTABLE PROPOSAL SINCE ALLIES MUST IN ANY EVENT
GIVE FRG CLEAR NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT AUGUST 27 TRIPARTITE MEETING UK
REP INFORMED OTHERS OF INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON
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REGARDING REPRESENTATION BY FRG OF WSB BROADCAST

INTERESTS AT OCTOBER ITU CONFERENCE. TAKING A PAGE FROM THE FRENCH BOOK -- AS SET OUT DURING AUGUST 13 TRIPARTITE MEETING (SEE REFTEL D) -- LONDON AGREES THERE WOULD BE AN INHERENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN GIVING THE FRG THE TASK OF REPRESENTING WSB BROADCASTING INTERESTS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RESERVING FOR THE ALLIES THE RIGHT TO REJECT THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE.

2. CONSEQUENTLY, LONDON HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO WORK OUT A DETAILED BRIEF ON WSB BROADCASTING WHICH WOULD BIND FRG REPS AT ITU CONFERENCE SO FAR AS BERLIN BROADCASTING IS CONCERNED. THE BRIEF COULD, OF COURSE, BE MODIFIED UPON AGREEMENT BY THREE ALLIES. THE BRITISH ARE ALREADY IN MIDST OF PREPARING A DRAFT BRIEF. LONDON ALSO FORESEES NEED FOR PAPER TO BE HELD BY ALLIED REPS AT ITU CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD COVER POSSIBLE SOVIET/EE CHALLENGES THAT FRG MAY NOT REPRESENT WSB INTERESTS AT CONFERENCE BECAUSE MATTERS OF SECURITY AND STATUS ARE INVOLVED OR THAT FRG MAY NOT REPRESENT ALLIED BROADCAST STATIONS LOCATED IN WSB. PREPARED STATEMENT SHOULD ALSO BE ON HAND FOR ENTRY INTO RECORD IF NECESSARY REGARDING ALLIED REQUEST/ AUTHORIZATION FOR FRG TO REPRESENT WEST BERLIN INTERESTS AT CONFERENCE. ALL REPS AGREED THAT MANDATE ITSELF WOULD NOT BE PUT ON RECORD AT CONFERENCE.

3. THE US REP RESPONDED THAT BRITISH PROPOSAL HAD ADVANTAGE OF AVOIDING DILEMMA FOCUSED ON BY FRENCH REP AT AUGUST 13 MEETING (ASKING FRG TO REPRESENT BERLIN INTERESTS AT CONFERENCE BUT RESERVING RIGHT FOR ALLIES TO REVIEW RESULTS) AND, IF FRENCH COULD GO ALONG, UK INSTRUCTIONS MIGHT BE BASIS OF ALLIED AGREEMENT WHICH COULD BE PUT TO FRG. HOWEVER, US REP EXPRESSED THOUGHT THAT WEST GERMANS MIGHT FEEL BURDENED BY SUCH A BRIEF, ESPECIALLY IN LIKELY EVENT THAT ALLIES WOULD INSIST ON STATUS QUO OR VERY NEAR IT FOR WEST BERLIN BROADCASTING. IT ALSO SEEMED THAT ALLIES COULD BE GETTING THEMSELVES TIED UP IN THEORETICAL KNOTS OVER CONFERENCE; THE PRACTICAL LIKLIHOODS OF HOW THE CONFERENCE WOULD DEVELOP SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED.

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4. FRENCH REP SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT WOULD QUICKLY REPORT UK PROPOSAL. HE INDICATED ATTRACTION TO LONDON'S IDEA SINCE PROBLEM OF ALLIED RESERVATION AS TO RESULTS OF CONFERENCE WOULD BE AVOIDED. RESPONDING TO US REP, UK DELEGATE SAID ALLIES MUST AVOID CHARGES OF BAD FAITH, AND HE URGED US AND FRENCH TO AGREE TO PROCEED ON BASIS OF UK INSTRUCTION. US REP SAID HE

WOULD REPORT QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: AMONG THE ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE, THE UK PROPOSAL SEEMS AS GOOD AS ANY, PARTICULARLY IF THE FRENCH CAN QUICKLY AGREE. WHILE THE FRG MIGHT NOT BE TOO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BEING BOUND TO A BRIEF WHICH COULD MAKE THEM THE TARGET OF OTHER DELEGATIONS AT THE ITU CONFERENCE BECAUSE OF INFLEXIBILITY, SINCE THE FRG WILL BE REPRESENTING WEST BERLIN AT THE CONFERENCE THE ALLIES CAN DO NOTHING LESS THAN GIVE BONN CLEAR NEGOTIATING GUIDELINES. FRG COULD ALSO DEFLECT POSSIBLE CRITICISM AT CONFERENCE BY NOTING THAT HANDS ARE TIED BY ALLIES. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED ON BASIS OF UK PROPOSAL AND TO PROSELYTIZE FRENCH TO DO SAME. WE WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY TIME US GROUP FOR PREPARATORY MEETING ARRIVES BONN (SEPTEMBER 2, SEE STATE 203322) SO FULL ADVANTAGE CAN BE MADE OF GROUP'S PRESENCE HERE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE AVAILABILITY OF GROUP MEMBER FOR SHORT TRIPARTITE MEETING TO BRIEF ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS ON HOW CONFERENCE LIKELY TO PROCEED. CASH UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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